

AMENDMENT NO. 2339

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2339 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2341

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2341 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2343

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2343 intended to be proposed to S. 1197, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 1742. A bill to temporarily suspend the collection of entrance fees at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, Ken Burns, paraphrasing Wallace Stegner, called the national parks "America's best idea." This is true not just for the intrinsic value of these lands, but also for the economic impact on rural communities across the country. Countless small business owners rely on outdoor recreational visitors for their livelihood.

Unfortunately, last month's government shutdown caused the visitors to stop. For 16 days this year, at the peak of the fall color season restaurants and hotels were empty. Roadside stands had no passers-by. Canoes and kayaks, hiking maps, and bait-and-tackle sat unsold on store shelves. One of my favorite places in Virginia, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, saw not one but two major events cancelled: the reopening ceremony of the historic Assateague Lighthouse and the Chincoteague wild pony roundup. These events usually draw thousands of visitors. The pony roundup, in particular,

also serves as a fundraiser for the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. Unlike park rangers, the local businesses that rely on visitors got no backpay.

That is why I am introducing this legislation to suspend entrance fees at national parks and wildlife refuges for a period of 16 days, equal to the duration of the shutdown. The fee suspension leads up to National Park Week in April 2014. This will encourage more visitors to turn out to the parks and give area establishments time to publicize the free days and to drum up more business. The bill is deficit-neutral, and considering the breadth of the national park presence across the nation, I hope it will garner bipartisan support.

We must negotiate a workable path forward on the federal budget so that the American people are never again caught up in the middle of battles in Washington. No act of Congress can reimburse the hard-working business men and women around the nation who got hit by the shutdown, but I believe this bill will nudge a few more vacationers out of town to take in the natural beauty of our country and support the local economies while they're at it. Given the attention that national parks got during the shutdown, I also believe the American people deserve a larger conversation about the importance of maintaining our natural resources for future generations. I hope this bill will spur that discussion.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1747. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2013 to ensure that 1.3 million unemployed Americans, including 4,900 Rhode Islanders, will not lose unemployment insurance at the end of the year.

Unemployment insurance, UI, is a vital lifeline for individuals and the economy. It provides a temporary weekly benefit to those who are looking for work and were laid off through no fault of their own.

Economists across the spectrum agree that maintaining unemployment insurance will grow our economy, spur consumer demand, and help businesses, States, and job seekers. Alternatively, according to the Economic Policy Institute, the failure to renew UI could cost our economy 310,000 jobs in 2014.

Extending unemployment insurance is a key part of keeping our economy moving forward. Indeed, continuing UI is part of a broad range of pro-growth and pro-jobs policies we should be enacting. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senators STABENOW, HARKIN, and WHITEHOUSE, and I urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring and pressing for action on this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 302—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 1, 2013, AS "DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY"

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. PRYOR, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 302

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year;

Whereas the Senate wants all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and encourages motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day through use of the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates December 1, 2013, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

SENATE RESOLUTION 303—DECLARING THAT ACHIEVING THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE NATIONAL PLAN TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PREVENT AND EFFECTIVELY TREAT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BY 2025 IS AN URGENT NATIONAL PRIORITY

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 303

Whereas the number of individuals in the United States with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (referred to in this preamble as "Alzheimer's") is as high as 5,200,000, which is more than double the number in 1980;